

NIGERIA/Cameroon situation

19-23 March 2018

Highlights

Key figures

20,485 Cameroonian refugees are registered in Nigeria:

Cross River (16,790)

Benue (3,517)

Akwa Ibom (178)

11,757 refugees reached with food and NFIs distributions in **Cross River State** since Jan. 2018

605 refugees have received shelter assistance in Cross River state since Jan. 2018

675 medical consultations provided in Cross River state since Jan. 2018

Abbreviations:

- Local Government Area (LGA)
- Nigeria National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI)
- State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA).
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Funding

USD **80.3 million** required for the UNHCR 2018 operation in Nigeria.

Led by UNHCR, humanitarian partners including national relief agencies, UN Agencies and NGOs held the **monthly technical coordination meeting on the Cameroonian refugees' influx in Cross River state** on 22 March. Progress presentations were made by UNHCR, ICRC, Nigeria Red Cross, Save the Children, UNFPA, CARITAS, WHO, UNICEF, NCFRMI and SEMA. The coordination meeting participants agreed to map who does what, where (3Ws) to better coordinate the response and target beneficiaries and resources efficiently.

Gaps highlighted during the meeting include, **improving the health referral system with necessary partnerships to make resources available for needed secondary and tertiary health care services**. Furthermore, identified cases of tuberculosis need immediate assistance. Also, in areas where refugees have not been reached with assistance so far, some further displacements have been observed though their destinations have not been ascertained at this point. As a result of limited resources and access challenges, some refugees in the southeastern states have not been reached with assistance.

Local authorities in **Cross River state** have granted 10 hectares of land for **the establishment of a refugee settlement in Ogoja, Yala LGA**. The piece of land has the capacity to host 2,000 refugees. However, it is observed that groundwater on the site is not potable. Also given the capacity of the land (to host 2,000 refugees), the Office will request for additional land. UNHCR plans to create settlement sites with refugee groups that are not larger in size than the population in neighbouring host communities to ensure peaceful co-existence.

Population Movements

There are continuing reports of **new arrivals of Cameroonian refugees** in the southeastern states of Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba in Nigeria. As of 23 March, UNHCR and Nigerian authorities have registered **20,485 Cameroonian refugees** in the southeastern states.

UNHCR Response

BENUE: Three **new partnerships have been entered into** with local partners to provide shelter, health, WASH and protection monitoring services to refugees, including SGBV and child protection.

On 25 March, the **UNHCR Regional Representative for West Africa, Liz Ahua, handed over non-food items (NFIs) to the Governor of Benue, Samuel Ortom**. The NFIs are a contribution to support internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Benue state, where tens of thousands of vulnerable populations have fled their homes as a result of recurring violent conflict between farmers and herdsmen.

During the reporting period, the Office undertook **site planning, WASH, shelter and road access assessments at (Anyake) Kwande LGA** site ahead of ongoing relocation plans.

CROSS RIVER STATE: In Ikom LGA, protection monitoring continued and assessments reveal that refugees are ready to relocate and they have the necessary skills to undertake shelter construction. However, host communities are afraid they will no longer benefit from the assistance they receive as a result of the presence of refugees.

HEALTH: The international medical humanitarian organization Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF OCB-Onitsha Belgium) will extend support to Cameroonian refugees in sites hosting the largest number of refugees in Cross River state. Meanwhile in Kwande, **Benue**, MSF-OCA Holland will provide health assistance to refugees.